

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Where claims have been amended, deletions are indicated by ~~striketrough~~, and additions are indicated by underlining:

In the claims:

1-66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) An endoluminal apparatus comprising:

an elongated main body having a proximal end, a distal end, a longitudinal axis, and at least one lumen extending through the main body, the main body having at least a first section near the proximal end and a second section near the distal end, and with the first section comprising a plurality of nested links with substantially all adjacent links having mating surfaces that are in contact with but that are not connected to each other and having a plurality of first pullwire lumens,

a plurality of first pullwires routed through substantially each of the first pullwire lumens, with each of the first pullwires being fixed to the elongated main body at a location at or near a distal end of the first section and at substantially a common point along the longitudinal axis of the main body, the first pullwires being substantially symmetrically spaced around the periphery of the nested links of the first section,

a tensioning mechanism operatively coupled to each of said first pullwires and adapted to impart a tension force that is substantially evenly distributed to each of said first pullwires, wherein the first section may be selectively switched between a substantially flexible condition and a substantially rigid condition, and

wherein the second section is steerable relative to the first section; and

a scope extended through at least a portion of said at least one lumen, said scope being moveable through said lumen relative to said elongated main body.

68. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the main body includes a torque transmitting feature which provides torque transmission between the

proximal and distal ends while the main body is unlocked, to cause the main body to rotate substantially about its central axis.

69. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68 wherein the distal end comprises an atraumatic tip having at least one opening corresponding to the at least one lumen.

70. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the second section may be switched between a flexible state and a substantially rigid state independently of the first section.

71. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67 with substantially each link in the first section configured to allow partial rotation relative to adjacent links and with the links arranged so that the first section can bend in at least two dimensions.

72. (Cancelled).

73. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the second section is steerable in up to three dimensions relative to the first section.

74. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the second section is steerable in a single dimension relative to the first section.

75. (Cancelled).

76. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67 further comprising at least two liners extending along a length of the elongated main body.

77. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76 wherein at least one liner can transmit torque.

78. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67 further comprising a liner creating a lumen in the main body.

79. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 wherein the liner has a hydrophilic coating.

80. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 67 wherein said scope comprises an endoscope extendable through the main body, with the endoscope having a steerable tip.

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67 further comprising an insufflation lumen within the main body.

83. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein a first end of the endoscope is positionable in an off-axis position relative to the elongated main body such that a region of interest spaced apart from the elongated main body may be viewed at an angle via the endoscope.

84. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67 further comprising a Y-port located along the first section, wherein the Y-port is in communication with at least one lumen extending through the elongated main body.

85-91. (Cancelled)

92. (Currently Amended) Apparatus, comprising:
a shaft having a first section, ~~[[and]]~~ a second section, and a longitudinal axis;
a plurality of first links in the first section, with adjacent first links pivotably abutting each other but not connected to each other, and with substantially each first link

having a contoured front surface adapted to engage with a contoured back surface of an adjacent first link and having a plurality of first pullwire lumens;

~~at least one first section tension element~~ a plurality of first pullwires extending through substantially each of the ~~first links~~ first pullwire lumens, with each of the first pullwires being fixed to the shaft at a location at or near a distal end of the first section and at substantially a common point along the longitudinal axis of the shaft, the first pullwires being substantially symmetrically spaced around the periphery of the first links of the first section;

a plurality of second links in the second section, with adjacent second links pivotably abutting each other but not connected to each other, and with substantially each second link having a contoured front surface adapted to engage with a contoured back surface of an adjacent second link;

at least one second section steering wire extending through substantially each of the first links and the second links; and

at least one working lumen extending through substantially each of the first links and the second links; and

a scope extended through at least a portion of said at least one working lumen, said scope being moveable through said working lumen relative to said shaft.

93. (Cancelled)

94. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 67 with the second section comprising a plurality of links.

95. (New) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein said member positioned at a distal end of the first section is one of the plurality of nested links.

96. (New) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein said tensioning mechanism comprises a pulley and wherein at least one of the first pullwires is routed through the pulley.